

# June

Be Sure to LOOK for those Buttons and  
roll-over effects

Magic Lantern Society NEWS

2012



## Where is Everybody Headed?



## Reviewed by Terry Borton

It was a wonder, no doubt about it. It might even to have something to say about the future of the magic-lantern society.

The Wonder Show, a unique magic-lantern show, was spearheaded by Carolyn Gennari and Anya Ventura, two young visual historians based in Providence, RI, in cooperation with the city's Library and Historical Society. Carolyn and Anya became fascinated with a treasure trove of negatives and lantern slides in the Arnold Collection of the Providence Public Library. They wanted to bring these old images to life for a modern young audience, and decided to show them with a magic lantern.

That required some doing—finding a lantern, finding out how to make it work, printing the negatives to glass slides, making a screen.

I served as an informal technical consultant during this phase, so I had some idea of what was going on. But I couldn't figure out exactly what they were going to do in the show. I couldn't see the audience appeal, as the slides, though Providence-related, were typical of the black and white images you can find for a dollar or so any day on eBay. It wasn't until the show itself—held in a little black box theater in the midst of bustling downtown Providence—that I found out what the wonder was.

## The Wonder Show



**Left to right, Marcin Gizycki, Terry and Debbie Borton, Kentwood and Marta Wells**

We had a nice dinner beforehand with the Kent and Marta Wells and Marcin Gizycki, and other Providence friends. The line outside the theater was long (good sign!), the atmosphere friendly and expectant. I rattled the theater door to see what would happen. We had our picture taken by a lovely young lady who seemed to be an expert photographer. I learned that earlier in the day the Historical Society had given a walking tour to



**A crowd lined up for the show.**

see where some of the images were taken. Inside, informality ruled. The MC gave the usual announcements about cell phones, but urged us not to go the to bathroom during the show. The flush, he said, was so loud it would interrupt the program.

Then it was show time. Carolyn and Anya had contacted a writer's workshop, and arranged for a varied group of writers to look at the images, pick a few, and write a short piece about them. The group had worked on the project for a month. The show consisted of the group's members reading their stories while the images were being projected. Many of the stories were wonderful. A photo of a man in front of an abandoned greenhouse inspired a story of a wife whose flowers became a symbol for her life and death. A "dog" of a slide—nothing but a statue of a deer—turned out to be evidence of a magical stag who managed to freeze himself into a permanent memorial. One daring young man channeled the Victorian photographer himself, making his "spirit" voice by speaking through a plastic horn. The spirit photographer explained that what looked like a cute little boy holding a dog was actually the first know photograph of a boy chocking a dog with its collar. A picture of a new stone city hall reminded the writer of the days when city hall was made of cake. It's loss accounted for the slides of children carrying signs saying, "We want a playground!"

*continued next page*

## The Wonder Show continued

You couldn't call it a polished performance. Yes, there were technical difficulties, and some of the writers were hard to hear. But the show had energy, it had humor, it had suspense, it had pathos, it had authenticity. It had the feeling of a large family horsing around at a picnic.

The audience loved it. Me too.

What does all this have to do with the future of The Magic-Lantern Society?

We're a vibrant organization at the minute. But too many of us have gray hair or no hair at all. Something has to change, or our days are numbered. Here was a magic-lantern show put together by 20-somethings who were having a great time with the lantern, and seemed eager to learn more.

The expense of collecting has kept a lot of young people from joining the society. But the slides and type of lantern used in Providence could be purchased on eBay for \$100. Even better, slides of local historical interest can be found in the historical societies of almost every town in the country. And those same towns are full of 20-somethings.

Providence—"Providence," get it?—has shown us a model that might be widely applicable. All we have to do is figure out how to replicate

Page 1 of the March  
Heritage Newsletter  
of the Salvation  
Army Australia  
Southern Territory  
**Sent to us  
courtesy of  
Lindsay Cox**  
The Salvation Army  
Heritage Centre  
Melbourne, Victoria,  
Australia

**HERITAGE NEWSLETTER**

**Number 38** **March 2012**

**Limelight Department Tri-unial Projector**

The Limelight Department purchased its one and only Tri-unial Lantern Projector in 1896, after a fire destroyed most of its equipment whilst on tour in New Zealand in 1896. The black image above shows Joseph Perry with the Tri-unial Lantern in 1896. The other black image shows the Limelight Department's Tri-unial in the Victory magazine, May 1896. The colour image is of a Tri-unial Lantern that is part of the collection of the Museum of Victoria. It consists of three individual projection systems integrated into one unit. The top unit can be separated from the lower two, creating Bi-unial and Single Lantern Projectors. Measuring over 1.1 metres in height, 500mm wide and 900mm long the body is constructed of mahogany, with brass fittings and brass telescopic barrel glass lenses. The three lenses allowed the projectionist to produce amazing dissolving views and moving picture effects from the 60mm square glass-slides. Glass lantern-slides were patented by the Langenheim brothers in the USA in 1850 and were applied to entertainment and educational and religious lectures, being in use until the 1950s.

The pictured Tri-unial Lantern Projector is part of the David Francis Collection of pre-cinematic apparatus acquired for the Australian Film Institute in 1975, and subsequently donated to the Museum of Victoria.

This projector was manufactured in London in 1891 by J Ottway & Son for The Salvation Army in England, and used by them until the 1950s.

*After 5 months of negotiations, correspondence and site reports with the Museum of Victoria for loan of the projector to the Heritage Centre, conservators have noted that the fragility of the object and the intended environment places it at an unacceptable risk.*

Featuring a triunial from member David Francis

# Jesse Sumner Wooley



[http://library.miami.edu/specialcollections/collections/wooley/J\\_S\\_Wooley/j\\_s\\_wooley.html](http://library.miami.edu/specialcollections/collections/wooley/J_S_Wooley/j_s_wooley.html)



The old Spanish cathedral located on the North side of Plaza. Finished in 1791, it is supposed to be one of the oldest cathedrals in the U.S. One of the original bells bears the date of 1682, and is said to be the oldest bell in the U.S.

## From Bob Hall

Great web site. We are listing one of his slides soon. "Volunteers Defending a Town. It is credited on Google as having been in Latin America but in his bio on the following web site I could find no reference to his having been to Latin America. Another Lantern Slide mystery! Bob

*Wooley's 1896 lantern slide lecture is remarkable for a number of reasons. To begin with, it provides an important historical record of Florida as it made the transition from a frontier region to a center of agriculture and tourism. In addition, it is one of the few professional lantern-slide/stereopticon lectures to survive intact with its narrative text and photographs. [1]*



1. The photographs that comprise the main part of this work are black and white reference shots that Wooley made to accompany the text from which he gave his lecture. His actual lecture notes were written on the back of each photograph. Wooley frequently abbreviated his notes, and almost certainly elaborated on them during his presentations. For this work, we have edited Wooley's lecture notes to ensure clarity and provide proper grammar and spelling. The photographs with the original notes that accompany them are included in the Floyd and Marion Reinhart Collection in the Special Collections Department of the Otto G. Richter Library, University of Miami. The actual glass slides for his lecture were hand-tinted in color. They survive largely intact as a series in the collection of the Brookside Museum, Ballston Spa, New York. Approximately ten of the 170 photographs included in Wooley's lecture were excluded from this publication because of their poor quality or redundant nature. It should also be noted that those photographs with rounded upper edges were almost certainly not taken by Wooley, but are commercial stereopticon slides that he incorporated into his lecture.

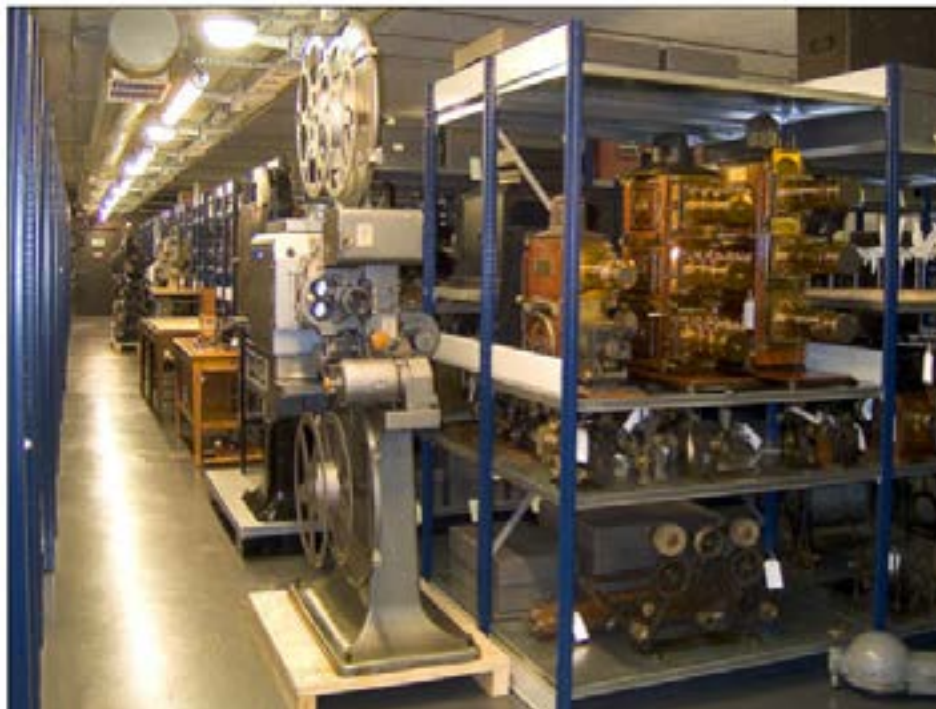
## National Library of France Collections of Devices of the French Film

From: Mannoni Laurent

Since 1997, the National Library of France graciously hosted collections of devices of the French Film and the CNC site François Mitterrand, in two space temperature and humidity controlled with a total area of 650 m<sup>2</sup>, including both reserves and work surface for a team of four employees. 4,000 aircraft, 18,000 lantern slides, records were kept in the best conditions of temperature and humidity. Before the great increase of such collections in the past 4 years the site had reached saturation at the end of 2010. In addition, at the same time, the BNF had informed us that she was in the need to resume its spaces to the horizon in early 2012. A new storage solution had to be considered urgently.

### The Conservatory of technical moves

After an exceptional year 2011, the Conservatory techniques Cinematheque prepares to take the next step.



<http://www.cinematheque.fr/fr/musee-collections/actualite-collections/restauration-numerisatio/conservatoire-techniques.html>



<http://library.ucsc.edu/vrc/decou-dream-pictures>

## THE DECOU ARCHIVE

The Branson DeCou Digital Archive consists of digitized images of 8,000 hand-tinted 3-1/4 x 4 in. glass lantern slides used in years of travel lecture tours covering all countries of the world, from ca. 1920-1941. The physical archive is housed in the library's Special Collection and Archives department



From Shel Izen

## SEATTLE'S PHOTO-PLAY HOUSE - OH! OH! THE PICTURE SHOW - 1913 - Sheet Music

OH! OH! THE PICTURE SHOW! By Wilhelm Cohn 1913. Great Photo "Melbourne Theatre, Home Of The Glass Curtain" Seattle, WA Lyric Quote "We saw air-ships in their flights, we saw a Bull Moose spree, Oh what a joy and what a delight to have before you pass the current happenings of the world on a sheet of glass...."



## The Secret Life of the Magic Lantern: The Exotic, the Erotic and the Bizarre

by Mervyn Heard

The London Festival of Photography is pleased to present this unique opportunity to experience the magic of a Victorian-era lantern slide show in what promises to be an exotic, erotic and bizarre evening of otherworldly entertainment.

**Dates: 24 June 2012**

Venue: Conway Hall, Main Hall

Address: 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL

Time: 6pm

Price: £10

<http://www.lfph.org/diary/the-secret-life-of-the-magic-lantern-the-exotic-the-erotic-and-the-bizarre>

## The Second Biennial Magic Lantern Society Australasian Convention



<http://magiclanternconvention.wordpress.com/>

Magic lantern enthusiasts, collectors, researchers and all interested in early visual technology we are very happy to announce that The Second Biennial Magic Lantern Society Australasian Convention

Will be held on Saturday, 27 October 2012 – convention for members (and friends) and Sunday, 28 October 2012 – public exhibition and children's program at Abbotsford Convent, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Our first Convention was held in a tiny historic community hall in the Dandenong Ranges, but this time we are coming to the Abbotsford Convent Arts precinct on the Yarra River, 4km from the central city.

The Convention is again timed to coincide with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria's annual History Week and it would be a great time for history buffs to visit.

We are currently calling for papers and presentations for the Saturday program.

So if you would like to present a paper on your work or collection at the 2012 Convention we would love to hear from you.

Or if you'd simply like to attend on either day let us know and we'll keep you up-dated.



**This alarming image from Busch's "Crotchet's Musical Recital" is part of a slide set found in an old farmhouse in New Zealand's Hawkes Bay region.**

## The Bygone Era Entertainment Society Presents:

### Film Night at the Nickelodeon

### Industry and HM The Queen

We take a brief look at Industry in the North West Corner of North America, including the origins and uses of oil (The Great Synthesis, a colour cartoon), how it is transported along the Trans-Alaska pipeline, and how the town of Kitimat BC came into being in the Alcan aluminium smelter – the largest construction project ever undertaken by private industry.

H M The Queen is celebrating her Diamond Jubilee shortly. We show her Coronation in 1953 in tribute to her.

**Friday June 1st ONLY!**

**7.00 p.m.**

**Nickelodeon, 111 First St West  
(250) 837 5250 for reservations**

**Seats available on the  
night. \$5 at the door.**

**Generously supported by the  
Knights of Pythias Revelstoke Lodge**

From Kentwood Wells  
**Antique EP Magic (Kerosene) Lantern  
Projector - Germany**



This is a vintage-  
antique magic lantern  
marked EP GERMANY.  
I'm not sure if it works  
well or not, as I don't  
have any slides to test  
with it, but it appears to  
be all there and in good  
condition. It does have  
some light rust and wear  
to the paint on the back,  
but otherwise rather nice.

*Could be an unusual  
lantern called the  
"The Schnozzola"  
or the  
"Slide Vacuum"*



**A Set of News Story Slides**

**RARE 1912 TITANIC boxed set of 20 GLASS SLIDES**

Item condition: Used

Time left: 4d 18h (May 26, 2012 10:54:53 PDT)

Price: US \$7,500.00

Buy It Now Buy It Now

**Now  
US \$4,995.00**

RARE 1912 TITANIC boxed set of 20 GLASS LANTERN SLIDES.

This is an incredible grouping of one of the toughest subject matters to  
find in glass slides. There are 20 in this boxed series all shown below.  
There are 5 that are cracked. All are stable with decent edges. The  
hand typed label on the outside of the box has aged where it is coming  
off slightly but still gives some great history to this particular set from  
100 years ago!

[http://www.ebay.com/itm/RARE-1912-TITANIC-boxed-set-of-20-GLASS-SLIDES-  
/350569126716?pt=Art\\_Photo\\_Images&hash=item519f8c5b3c](http://www.ebay.com/itm/RARE-1912-TITANIC-boxed-set-of-20-GLASS-SLIDES-/350569126716?pt=Art_Photo_Images&hash=item519f8c5b3c)



From: Robert Ray

## Magic Lantern Merriment in Special Collections

Special Collections is proud to announce the completion of processing for the Homer and Betty Peabody Magic Lantern Collection! Generously donated by Homer and Betty Peabody, the collection documents the development of magic lantern technology and glass slides as well as its diverse usage. At over 80 linear feet, this collection contains forty-two magic lanterns and approximately five thousand glass slides! This extensive and exciting collection took over six months to fully process, and we are overjoyed to finally release this collection to public access.



We are providing online access to past issues of the Bulletin and Gazette (approved by the Society). I think this would be an announcement of special interest to members of the Society. The journals can be accessed at the following url:

<http://library.sdsu.edu/scua/online-materials/magic-lantern-pubs>

One feature of the 2011 issues is that illustrations that originally were in color, but were printed in black and white for budgetary reasons, were converted back to color in the online PDFs. This means, for example, that all of the lantern slides of Russia in Anton Orlov's article in the Winter 2011 issue can be viewed in color.

<http://library.sdsu.edu/scua/new-notable/magic-lantern-merriment-special-collections>

## A Big Thank You to the following:

Terry Borton  
Lindsay Cox  
Ron Easterday  
David Evans  
Bob Hall  
Shel Izen  
Mannoni Laurent  
Robert Ray  
Kentwood D. Wells

*for contributing to this month's issue.*

## Now it's your turn to share!

Do you have a favorite site or a collection of images you would like to share with the rest of the society?

If your answer is yes! Send site information or your images to Larry and they will be shared in the next E-pub newsletter.

**E-mail Larry**

## Welcome New Members

### Lipman, Charlotte

2006 Vestal Ave  
Los Angeles, CA 90026-1945  
(323) 667-3202  
Teacher  
calipman@earthlink.net  
Interests: Lanterns: all; Slides: all; Literature:  
any; Kinetic Devices: all; Vintage Cinema:  
Early animation, special effects, nature films.  
Will buy  
Plans to give shows.

### Melton, Suzanne

17837 1ST Ave S PMB254  
Normandy Park, WA 98148-1728  
(206) 243-4200  
sooze98148@yahoo.com  
Retired technical writer  
Interests: Lanterns: Keystone 412. Will buy.

## Renewing Members

### Khan, Omar

1773 9th Ave.  
San Francisco, CA 94122-4701  
(415) 661-7397  
omar@harappa.com  
www.imagesofasia.com  
Interests: Lanterns; Slides of India and  
Pakistan; Literature; Kinetic Devices; Vintage  
Cinema of India and Pakistan.

### Morden, John

76 Kennedy Ave  
Toronto, ON M6S 2X9  
Canada  
(416) 766-3407  
Student  
pushchak.morden@  
sympatico.ca  
Interests: Lanterns: Sciopticon; Slide: 19th  
Century; Literature.  
Plans to give shows  
Will Buy, Trade

### Updike, Lee

4000 South Forrest Ave  
Independence, MO 64052-2439  
(816) 686-6200  
autmleav@aol.com  
Interests: Lanterns: Viewers, lanternoscope,  
etc.; Slides: Collect mid-west views  
including Independence, MO, Lamoni, IA,  
Carthage, IL, Nauvoo, IL, Kirtland, OH, and  
others; Literature: Slide preservation and  
repair.  
Will Buy, Sell, Trade

### Willis, Artemis

4915 S Woodlawn Ave  
Coach House  
Chicago, IL 60615-2811  
(646) 321-1463  
Film maker and Arts Presenter, PhD Student  
simetra66@aol.com  
www.simetra66.org  
Interests: Vintage Cinema; Programming,  
curating, writing, filmmaking and other  
promotion thereof.  
Gives Shows

## Corrections/Updates to members listed in the Directory

### Keeler, Amanda

Address correction:  
352 N. Third Street, Lewisburg, PA  
17837-1102

## 15th International Convention

**JOIN US!**  
**This Friday for  
some FREE  
Entertainment**

**Friday, June 1, 2012, 7PM**

Join us in a bit of free entertainment and education about Victorian period entertainment.

At Castle Hall the Knights of Pythias



Commencement Lodge #7•  
Knights of Pythias,  
926 1/2 Broadway, Tacoma, WA.

### **Four shows in one!**

- A brief travel back in time illustrating the wide variety of magic lantern slides
- A look at historic Puget Sound locations
- Lecture of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Fireman and Enginemen
- A tale of Tacoma Tar and his colorful life in and around tall ships in the Puget Sound area

Brought to by Magic-Lantern Group NW, a group of individuals from Vancouver, BC to Vancouver, Washington and members of the Magic Lantern Society of the United States and Canada.

Knights of Pythias Hall, 926 1/2 Broadway, Tacoma, WA

Contact Larry if you have questions  
or need program schedule  
[designerlc@comcast.net](mailto:designerlc@comcast.net)

**June 21 — 24, 2012**



**The Convention is almost here!**

*There are only 20 days left before  
we hit the leading edge of the  
2012 Convention in Tacoma, WA.  
That's when the Thursday Welcome  
reception starts, and after that,  
things won't slow down until the  
auction closes on the afternoon of  
Sunday, June 24.*

**Small Parts  
and Pieces  
Sales & Trade  
Table**

*This convention we will start something NEW!*

A miscellaneous and small parts Sales & Trade Table for the members. For those attending the convention and would like to sell or trade some of those odds and ends bring them to the convention to be sold/traded at the society's sales table.

So pack up those items that you have and want to sell. Bring them to the convention and fill out a sales/trade tag with your price or trade and name and one of our members will man the sales table and record sales and collect for the items.

If you are not able to make the convention and have items that you would like to sell/trade on our small parts table, there is a possible solution. Send images and dimensions, sale price or trade item and contact information to **Larry** and that information will be displayed on the sales table. Your information will be given to any potential buyer.

Of the items do not sell/trade at the convention they could be listed for sale/trade in the July E-pub if that is agreeable with you.

**NOW IS THE TIME TO FIND  
THOSE EXTRA PARTS YOU  
MIGHT HAVE!**

## A Sampling of Some of the Presentations

### Friday, June 22

#### *200 Eminent American Lanternists*

Millions of people a year watched the big screen before the movies arrived in America in 1896. Tens of thousands of magic-lantern showmen competed for their attention. Here, for the first time, is a survey of 200 of the most popular -- who they were, what their performances were like, and what their audiences thought of them.

#### *Edmund H Wilkie - Slide Painter to the Royal Polytechnic*

See some of the finest slides ever created for the magic lantern by one of the world's finest slide painters.

#### *Original Brenkert Lantern Slides*

Rear projection of large format special effect theater and vaudeville slides has never before been done at a Society convention before. Look forward to a unique presentation with audience participation.

### Additional Highlights of the Coming Convention

#### Discussion Group about:

Magic lantern Research Page Zotero  
Magic Lantern Ephemera  
Keys to Successful Showmanship  
Museum Collections

### Saturday, June 23

#### *Looking for John Fallon*

Historical Detective Work and the Early Years of the Stereopticon in America.

#### *A Japanese Christmas Carol*

Using characters and creatures from Japanese folklore, Dickens' immortal tale is reset in old Japan. Introducing the Japanese art of picture card theatre (kamishibai) reinvented as an old-time lantern slide illustrated song. World Premiere!

#### *A discovered treasure trove of temperance show material.*

TEMPERANCE, TEMPERANCE, TEMPERANCE bellowed the right Reverend A. W. Free. Come and see some of the recently discovered treasure trove of material Rev. Free used in his temperance shows.

*Drop-In for the day of your choice  
\$20 per day*

*or*

*become member of society for \$25  
includes yearly benefits*

- Annual Membership Booklet
- The Magic Lantern Gazette
- E-Publication

*and one day of convention  
presentations*

In conjunction with the upcoming Convention of the Magic Lantern Society, on June 23, there will be a special Victorian Magic Lantern Show, open to the public.



### SATURDAY, JUNE 23 at 7:30pm

Tickets: \$12 each,  
available from the Magic Lantern Society

The American Magic-Lantern Theater presents a Magic Lantern Show, the authentic Victorian, big-screen extravaganza that led to the movies. This program will be held in the Washington State History Museum Auditorium.

<http://www.magiclanternsociety.org/convention-2012.html>